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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that a committee of this House went into the question and has made a preliminary report and the Government have called for further information some time ago, and the same is not still forthcoming?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"I think I have already answered that question. What the hon. Member says is quite true."

Irrigation facilities in South Kanara.

* 385 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any examination has been made of the suggestions made by me in my speech in the Legislative Council on the 15th March 1933, during the discussion on Demand VI of the Budget—

(i) that permanent dams with sluices be provided in the rivers in Kasaragod taluk in South Kanara; and

(ii) that some system of damming the river at Gurpur in South Kanara or of using deep water pumps be adopted to irrigate the lands on either side of the river during the dry season; and

(*b*) whether, to encourage all cultivation and especially sugarcane cultivation, any scheme has been examined, of constructing tanks for the storage of rain water in South Kanara district which now mostly flows into the sea?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply of Sir Archibald Campbell to the Budget debate (extracted below)—

"Then, as regards Malabar and South Kanara, a complaint was made that they are left without any irrigation works. I think, Sir, it is generally recognized that they are blessed with a very lavish rainfall which nature has provided for them. They have, however, not been altogether neglected. I have here a note showing that in recent years five schemes have been investigated and given up on financial or other grounds, or are waiting until the requirements of the Ceded districts have been met. A suggestion has been made that in these two districts, we should substitute masonry dams for the mud dams put up by the ryots across rivers every year. That was investigated in 1929 and was given up because the permanent dams would impede free flow, would interfere with navigation and were likely to cause flooding in neighbouring lands. If there are mud dams, they are washed away when floods come down the rivers, I can realize that it is a nuisance to have to replace them but if permanent dams are put up there would be a great risk of flooding the neighbouring fields."

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In view of this reply no further action was taken in the matter.

(b) A proposal to store rain water in high level tanks in the South Kanara district was considered in 1933 and it was reported by the Collector and the Board of Revenue that such a scheme was neither practicable nor necessary.

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" With reference to the reply of Sir Archibald Campbell referred to in the answer to clause (a), may I ask the Hon. the Revenue Member whether it is not a fact that rainfall is confined to a few months in South Kanara and that owing to very severe drought during the other months of the year the crops suffer? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER :—" I do not think that is a general statement, but it is correct so far as this district is concerned."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" Is it not a fact that there are already some tanks in South Kanara such as the tank at Ramasamudram which show that a general tank scheme is feasible? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER :—" Investigations have shown that what Sir Archibald Campbell said is correct."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I know whether it is not a fact that it is the mud dam that prevents the free flow of water and that it is washed away during floods in the rainy season and silts up? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER :—" That, Sir, I think, is what Sir Archibald Campbell has stated."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" It is stated that five schemes were investigated and were given up on financial or other grounds or were waiting until the requirements of the Ceded districts have been met. May I know what those five schemes are? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" Will the Hon. the Revenue Member, with his large experience of South Kanara and with his keen sympathy, be pleased to reopen the matter and reconsider the whole scheme? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER :—" I will look into that matter, Sir."

Land Revenue Administration

Deputation of the Tanjore Mirasidars to His Excellency the Governor in re *the levy of additional taxation.*

* 386 *Q.*—Mr. G. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the memorandum submitted on 26th April 1935 at Ootacamund to His Excellency the Governor by the deputation on behalf of the mirasidars of the Tanjore Delta for the cancellation and revocation of the three Government Orders, viz., G.O. No. 1853, Revenue, dated 5th September 1932,